Amendment in Panchayati Raj Act

892. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain States have been demanding amendments in Panchayati Raj Act;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to bring amendments including providing for two tier system in local bodies; and

(c) by when the amendments are likely to be brought?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Having considered all aspects of the proposal, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has decided to facilitate and secure implementation of the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1962 by States.UTs, in letter and spirit, by encouraging States /UTs to adopt carefully drawn-up plans of action to implement the existing provisions of the Constitution.

Constitution of District Planning Committees

893. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have asked the State Governments to expedite Constitution of District Planning Committees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that funds to augment income of Panchayats would be allocated to States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Between July and December, 2004, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj convened seven Round Table Meetings with the State Ministers in charge of Panchayati Raj and evolved by consensus 150 points for action relating to 18 dimensions of Panchayati Raj which have been put